



Michael Watson
SECRETARY OF STATE

**Public Lands Division
Senior Attorney**

- Provide general legal advice to school districts on various school and land use issues.
- Inform school districts of changing trends in the public lands area and provide guidance on how districts can use those trends to their financial advantage
- Assist school districts in drafting of leases towards maximizing financial returns and complying with state law.
- Review leases executed by local school districts for compliance with Mississippi Code 16th Section Statutes.
- Monitor legislation impacting the 16th Section Lands and provide guidance to members of the Legislature, as needed.
- Work to identify issues within LAP and determine the best way to resolve the issue.
- Assist school districts with entering correct information into the school district portal.
- Assist school districts with managing the total number of acres of school trust land so that leased and unleased acres do not skew revenue reports.
- Assist with mapping leases using GIS software.
- Provide legal assistance with any issues regarding tax forfeited lands in the division.
- Assist the Attorney General's Office in litigation pertaining to Quiet Title Actions of Tax-Forfeited Land.
- Work to reconcile the agency's inventory of agency held lands.
- Provide back-up to the Assistant Secretary of State for Public Lands.
- Special projects as assigned by Chief of Staff and Secretary of State.